

Grade 7 Writing Scoring Guide

4 Points

The paper:

- has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- uses paragraphing appropriately.
- contains a strong controlling idea.
- progresses in a logical order.
- uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs.
- clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- uses precise and vivid language.
- contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice).
- clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

2 Points

The paper:

- has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- shows evidence of paragraphing.
- contains some sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- may not progress in a logical order.
- at times seems awkward and lacks cohesion.
- addresses the topic, but may contain some details that are not relevant.
- may use imprecise language.
- contains sentences that are generally clear, but lack variety in structure.
- may use writing techniques.
- shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

3 Points

The paper:

- has a beginning, middle, and end.
- uses paragraphing.
- contains a controlling idea.
- generally progresses in a logical order.
- may use cohesive devices.
- addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- uses language that is usually precise.
- contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- uses writing techniques.
- shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

1 Point

The paper:

- may lack evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end.
- may lack evidence of paragraphing.
- is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- does not progress in a logical order, and may digress to unrelated topics.
- is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- may address the topic, but lacks details.
- uses imprecise language.
- contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- does not use writing techniques.
- shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.